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| Organization Mission & Vision | | | | | |
| Mission Statement | | | | |
| As part of the FIRST Robotics Competition, the mission of ECG Robotics, Inc. is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, support innovation, and foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.   ECG Robotics, FRC Team 1533 -- Triple Strange participates in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition FRC program, a fun, yet competitive program that embraces the ideas of gracious professionalism and coopertition. In addition to building robots, we share the excitement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics throughout Guilford County with year-round outreach events. | | | | |
| Organization's Key Areas of Focus | | | | |
| Please briefly describe the main programmatic areas of your organization. | | | | |
| Our objective is to provide a local community program for high-school students that:  1. Develops real life leadership skills in problem solving, cooperation, creative design, and teamwork with a concentrated focus in math, science, technology, and engineering.  2. Positively influences our community by exciting younger students about STEM fields.  3. Builds community partnerships between students, parents, mentors, and community sponsors that include large and small businesses as well as educational institutions.  FRC Program - Every January, FIRST announces the season's new game challenge to the world. The students then have 6 weeks to build a robot to compete with at a regional competition in the spring. As a team, students first decide the game strategy and then design, create the mechanical and electronic components, assemble, program, and test the robot. They also prepare marketing materials to promote these activities. The robot must be shipped on time, meet strict weight, size, and safety standards, and be produced within a reasonable materials budget. These are real life lessons teaching real life skills.  Team 1533 is a student run organization, and students are in charge of every part of the design process. Many skills learned are needed in every organization: teamwork, communication, and group decision-making. Others skills are more technical: using computer aided design software, designing a transmission, machining gears, designing electronics, and programming. Some are business related: using graphics production software, planning, and budgeting. The mentors are engineers, business people, university professors, and parents who use their insight to work closely with and help students move forward with their tasks. Throughout the entire process, the standard of conduct is "gracious professionalism".  While the robot is the main focus of the competition, we participate in many community outreach activities to share the excitement of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Over the last several years, ECG Robotics Team 1533 has helped start 14 new FIRST teams. Each year, outreach efforts include robot demos at elementary schools, other robot competitions, college fairs, business conventions, and educational conferences. Just these past two years, our students demonstrated their robot at the: NC Museum of Natural Sciences New Wing Grand Opening, several youth conferences, the Greensboro Grasshoppers, General Green Elementary School's Technology Fair, Greensboro Roller Derby, RFMD College Fair, NC Technology Association Annual Leadership Conference, Women's President Organization to 50 women business leaders, Guilford County State of the Schools Address, NCA&T Aggieland FTC Robotics Championship, and several elementary schools.  The students focus their community outreach on younger students by assisting with homework at an afterschool program, starting and leading Jr. FLL LEGO enrichment clubs at local elementary schools, assisting with local FLL Tournaments in Greensboro and Winston-Salem, mentoring middle school LEGO Robotics teams, and volunteering at the Natural Science Center's summer LEGO Camps. Through volunteering over 1200 hours, our team members have brought the excitement of STEM activities to thousands of young people. | | | | |
| Proposal Information | | | | |
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|  | Please indicate the type of support you are seeking. Funding for the following types of support is at the discretion of individual Time Warner Cable service areas. | | |
|  | Project Support | | |
|  | Request Amount | | |
|  | $2000 | | |
| Proposal Description | | | | | | |
|  | Program/Project Title | | | | |  |
|  | Please provide a brief name for your program/project.  If you are seeking general operating support, please type "General Operating Support" below. | | | | |  |
|  | FRC Robot Build Expenses and FRC Field Expenses for FIRST FRC Team 1533 - Triple Strange's participation in the 2013 FRC Competition Season. FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) information is available at [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org/" \t "_blank). | | | | |  |
|  | Program/Project Description | | | | |  |
|  | Please provide a full description of your program/project including the key goals and objectives.  If you are seeking general operating support, please provide a brief description of how these funds would be used. | | | | |  |
|  | General Operating Support -- We would like to request $2000 to be applied towards our $4500 FRC Robot Build and FRC Field Expenses. Typical expenses for a robot include motors, jaguars, sensors, a CRIO, and other electrical components. Structural materials such as aluminum, lexan, gears, chains, belts, are also necessary. The team doesn't know exactly what materials are required until the six-week build season when the game challenge is released and the students start designing their robot. Additionally, the team budgets $500 towards building field elements that are part of the game challenge. ECG Robotics team, Team 1533 -- Triple Strange, will participate in FIRST Robotics for its ninth year in 2012-13. Our team expects to have approximately 40 students from 6 - 8 high schools from Guilford County. Over the years, the team has had as many as 60 plus members and as few as 32 members on the team. We welcome any and all students who want to participate.  We are an independent non-profit that does not have access to a school workspace or a company sponsored facility as do many FRC teams throughout the country. In October 2010, we made the financial commitment ($600/month plus utilities), leased a 1700 square foot open room in a business park, 5 minutes from the Early College at Guilford, and centrally located in Guilford County. This has greatly enabled our team to meet at times conducive to student schedules, made this experience more accessible for students, and provided the opportunity for students to meet weekly throughout the summer and fall. For the past two summers, students met continuously over the summer and spent their time building and maintaining our team's demonstration robots, and training each other. Additionally, ECG Robotics hosts FTC Team 731 -- Wannabee Strange and FTC Team 5795 -- Thunder Ducks, who also meets at our build space. We welcome other teams to share our space, and have previously held mechanical engineering and CAD training with other Guilford County robotics teams at our facility.  Team Schedule: Fall: Engineering, safety, and programming training, marketing preparations, FIRST Lego League Mentoring, elementary school volunteering starts and continues throughout the school year.  Jan-Feb: Build season! Students meet 6 days a week, afterschool from 4 -- 7pm, and on Saturdays from 9 - 5 pm. Mar -- Apr: Attend 2 regional competitions --NC FIRST Regional and one other. Tournaments are 3 days in length, Thursday thru Saturday, and attended by teams from across the US, and other countries.  Late Spring: Student officers are elected for the coming season and plan their program for the following year. Summer: New student leadership team prepares for upcoming season. School and sponsor presentations, robot maintenance, build demonstration robot, and summer community service typically with the Natural Science Center in Greensboro, NC take place. Team meets once a week during the summer.  FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) Program - Similar to FRC, but less intense. The Challenge is released early September and our students meet once a week for 5 hours (Fridays 4 - 9 pm) to brainstorm, design, build, program, test, and then compete with their robot. As the competitions draw closer, the students often meet more frequently.  Our primary goal is to provide an opportunity for any student in Guilford County to participate successfully in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) and the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) programs for the 2012 -- 2013 season. FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. Based in Manchester, NH, the 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit public charity designs accessible, innovative programs that motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. The expected impact we seek is an increased interest in science and technology as well as increased dedication to their studies among the students involved. We see enthusiasm when they share what they learned with other students, spreading their passions for science further in community. We also see the impact in the choices alumni make for college. In 2010, we had 9 graduates, and all went to 4-year colleges: 3 are majoring in science or engineering, 3 in political science, 1 in psychology, and 2 were undetermined. 2011 saw 7 students graduate as seniors, all with plans to attend 4 year colleges and all 7 indicating they will be majoring in engineering or science. 2012 graduated 13 seniors, all with plans to major in science or engineering. More specifically, success for us in the 2012-2013 season will be for our FRC and FTC teams to compete with gracious professionalism in two FRC Regional Competitions this year, including the North Carolina Regional Competition, and the FTC Aggieland Championship at NC A&T. In addition, success for our team will be to continue building a future where students are enthusiastic about science, math, and technology in our local community. ECG Robotics provides a successful learning experience for our students because of tremendous support from many community partners. Each year we need funds, materials, a place to build and store our robots, and engineering and non-engineering adult mentors, and it is the community partners that help provide them for us. We are 1 of 3 High School Robotics Teams in Guilford County that participate in the FIRST FRC program. We are an established program because of the support of parents, volunteers, community partners, and the enthusiasm of the students. | | | | |  |